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SECT STORY

MAUD.

We met by chance, of course; and equally, of course, it was a case of love at first sight.

It was two years since Tom Watkins and I, proud of our four years' experience and our brand-new sheepskins, had left Amherst with mingled feelings of joy and regret.

We both voted for the mountain instead of the sea, and for New Hampshire; so we started out determined to see all that we could of the North woods.

As we had both jogged on thus far, I had an idea of meeting any young woman who seemed absolutely essential to our happiness, we could look forward to a complete rest from the use of the pen.

Neither did we set out with any idea of meeting our fate. We went to enjoy the woods and each other; we rather shunned that sought society, especially that of ladies.

After a day on Lake George we took the eastern route to the woods, spending a night at Elizabethtown. There we tramped to Keene, the clear mountain streams, deep, cool woods, and grand towering peaks, more than making up for the hard roads and tickle dirt, so that, though tired, we were more than satisfied with our first day's experience.

As we had resolved to "do" the mountains, we climbed the cloud-cleaver, Tahawus; we spent a shivering night on Whiteface; whence we watched Lake Placid brighten under the morning sun; we picked a four-leaved clover from John Brown's grave at North Elba; we started a deer in the Indian pass, and saw our guide kill it; and, to crown all, we came out of the woods by way of the lakes.

Our guide was a wily little fellow—too slight to carry a load, we thought, until we watched him, with a wistful match, when he showed himself tough as whipcord, and we had no fears.

Starting from the lower Saranac on a dull afternoon, a gorgeous sunset lit up the clouds and lakes as we rowed swiftly along; then, as the rich purple of evening deepened, the crescent moon broke through the clouds, and we had our first experience of "carries" in this uncertain twilight. It was only a short walk, however, and then we glided across the black waters of Round Lake in an utter silence, save for the rustle of the oars and the scream of the loon or night hawk.

Next day we wound along the Raquette river, whose waters were low, and whose shores, even thus early, glowed with autumn color.

Our nights were spent at hotels, which we reached late and early. Almost lost under the inverted boat, our guide led us through the rich vegetation of the carries, still raging, had obliterated every trace of a trail to our unaccustomed eyes.

Occasionally we heard the incongruous sound of human voices other than our own and came upon a similar boating-party. Now and then we heard the baying of dogs, and knew that some poor deer was in distress, or we saw an uncomely bird, and listened to the wild notes, but the most part, there were few signs of life of any kind, and the silence was complete; the sense of loneliness, intense.

facinated that Maud looked enviously at my treasures. Lifting my hat, I tossed them at her feet.

She did not blush, she did not scorn, she cast them into the water, nor ask her brother to throw them back to me; she simply nodded her thanks with evident delight, and, with the utmost grace, she fastened the lovely lotus flowers in her belt.

Does this strike any one as a bit of fiction? What man could keep a flower with an lady from whom he might borrow it? The ladies brought their right owner, and I simply helped them on their rightful way, while Tom looked at the three he had gathered as if unwilling to imitate me, and equally unwilling to keep them.

I had gone into partnership with my father, and worked like a slave, lest he should be ashamed of me; for I had an immense respect for him, and I knew he despised laziness.

Having then worked two years without interruption, Tom and I both felt that we had earned a vacation, and, by a little planning, we managed to get off together in September of the comparatively uneventful year eighteen hundred and eighty.

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The Wife's Part of a Life Partnership

If the wife works as hard as the husband, is she not entitled to her fair share of the English language?

Without entering very fully into the importance with which the cat was invested in olden times by reason of its supernatural element supposed to reside in it, we may briefly note that by the Egyptians it was so highly honored as to receive sacrifice and devotion and to have stately temples erected to its honor.

Usually the wife works harder than the husband, because his business is simple, and hers complex. The old saying that a man's work is his home, and a woman's work is never done, is as true now as in the days when she planted the seed, and weeded the ground, and spun the flax, and wove the linen, and made the garment.

Thousands of cultivated women in America, regularly, admirably, bravely, they must, though their husbands would certainly not consent to a corresponding industry for economy's sake.

Wives who have servants do not, less care their living. All the thought and care which make the housekeeping both economical and elegant, the endless struggles with ignorance and incompetency below them, the grace and culture and refinement which turn a common cook-stove, washing place, and dormitory into a home, the possibility of hospitality, the wise nurture of children, the beauty of the daily life, depend on the wife. But men who are liberal in their dealings with their fellows, prompt to pay servants' wages, considerate in their conduct, do not recognize the money value of their wives' services, and bestow as a bounty what is due as a debt.

It is not a good thing for either man or wife that one should be the patron, the other the beneficiary. It is not good for either to create a feeling of dependence, the trust of the funds, should come out himself as if he were the owner. Whatever portion of the common income equitably belongs to the wife should be paid promptly and regularly as wages, allowance, or share, but always as a right, not as a favor.

In many cases this matter settles itself on a basis of justice. In many others the whole married life of the wife is passed in abasement of spirit because of her husband's substitution of a false theory of ownership for that of partnership. In such cases, there is a sentiment in marriage which rates the service of a wife above a mere money value. But this is an additional reason why they should at least be acknowledged in money. And a higher civilization than ours will be one which recognizes the value of her own pure should ever have seemed a question to be argued.—Harper's Bazar.

Responsibility of Inebriates. Doctor T. D. Crothers describes in the Popular Science Monthly a semi-probationary system, consisting, without exception, of inebriates, sometimes follows hard drinking. A person in this condition may carry on his regular business, or may perform manual acts and even crimes, none of which will be remembered when he recovers full consciousness. Concerning the legal treatment of drunkards, Doctor Crothers says:

1. "Inebriety in all cases must be regarded as a disease, and the patient forced to use means for recovery. Like the victim of an infectious disease, his personal responsibility is increased, and the community with him has a right to insist on the treatment as a necessity.

2. "Inebriety must be recognized as a condition of legal irresponsibility to a certain extent, depending on the circumstances of each individual case.

3. "All unusual acts or crimes committed by inebriates, either in a state of partial stupor or alleged amnesia (loss of memory) which should come under legal recognition, should receive thorough study by competent physicians, before legal irresponsibility can be determined.

4. "In the present state as established beyond doubt, the person is held liable for his acts during this period. But each case should be determined from the facts of its individual history.

In the light of science the present legal treatment of inebriates is but little less than barbarism. The object of the law, in punishments, benefits no one, and makes the patient more incurable—destroying all possibility of recovery and return to health again. Inebriety in any form may be no excuse for crime in a legal sense, but it is still an excuse for punishment, which destroys the victim, or makes him more helpless and hopeless. A vast army of inebriates, hovering along these border-lands of disease and crime, who are unknown and unrecognized, except as "vicious and desperate" men, are a perpetual menace to all progress and civilization, unless they can be reached and checked by rational, effective methods. A revolution of sentiment and practice is demanded, in which the inebriate and the conditions which developed him, should be understood; then the means for prevention, restoration, and recovery can be applied along the line of nature's laws."

Superstitions About Cats

Thousands of pages of advice have been written on the English language, alone, to teach men how to judge a horse in an interview of half an hour. Probably other languages are equally rich in similar information. Every veterinary work contains elaborate advice, illustrated with coarse wood cuts, to instruct the unaccustomed man to decide upon the animal's age by the appearance of the teeth. The growth and wear of the teeth after a horse has passed his sixth year, is a most fallacious guide, and the practiced horseman and skillful veterinarian will look rather to the general appearance of the horse and his expression, rather than to the wear of the teeth.

The shape of the lower jaw, the hang of the lips, the appearance of the eye and the surrounding conformation, the elasticity of the skin of the jaw and other indications govern the judgment of the expert. In our methods of horse keeping, over feeding, irregular work, unventilated stables and the wreck of the feet and injury to the legs caused by shoeing, work physically that make our horses practically old at 12 years, but in fact that time in his life should be his early prime, responding to the age of 35 years in a man or woman. A horse that has had a hard life shows the lines of care and age just as they appear in a man, who has, in youth, drawn drafts upon the powers of manhood. A horse that is vigorous and healthy at 12 or 20 years of age, and that has not had his feet ruined may fairly be counted on for 6 or 8 years of usefulness. But in buying him, trust him as you would a man, only from thorough knowledge of his character. Do not take any man's word about his horse, the only safe way is to try him both in the stable and at work. Never judge of him in harness, always see him moved about in his natural action by the halter; if he has "bar-shoes" on, they have been put there to relieve pressure upon the cornea; or if the bar is across the middle of the hoof, he is a victim to the incurable malady of "drop-sole." If leather is used under the shoe he has a foot that is shaken by concussion. Never buy a horse without trying him at backing, you may find a weakness or trick in that way.

Handsome, healthy-looking, fine horses are sold for a few dollars, and the amazement of the purchaser, who soon finds that his bargain has kicked a buggy into killing wood—or is the subject of fits and convulsions—the life of the driver. Other stingers are found, too late, to have incurable stable sores that make him miserable to keep. The best of equine vice and weakness, instead of physical, is a long one; in that respect horses dispute preeminence with their masters. Therefore the only safe way is to become acquainted with a horse by trial; it is worth a large percentage on the cost to do so. O buy a horse of your neighborhood that you are thoroughly acquainted with and pay what he is worth rather than attempt to pick up a bargain among horse-dealers. Keep your horse well, without over-feeding; give them regular work in the usual way; do not, when shoeing, stir up the hooves, lest you give a kick to have shoes that will last two months, and you will not find yourself so frequently in the horse market to buy or exchange.—Cor. in Our Country Home.

How to Form a Reasonable Opinion of the Age of Women. Age in a woman is a ticklish subject, and I have been talking with an expert about it—that is to say, a physician of heavy and long practice. I reminded him that we can judge of a horse's years by its mouth, and why couldn't some rules be laid down, in a widely general way, as data to go on in estimating the age of a human being?

"Do horses wear false teeth?" the man of medicine answered. "Do they dye their gray hairs, or putty up the wrinkles in their faces? Seriously, there is nobody so expert to learn the age of a woman with any accuracy near exactitude by physical observation. The uncertainty isn't altogether due to deceptive practices, either, but to the widely varying effect of time in individuals. As a rule, brunettes look older than blondes of a corresponding age. As to the hair, the loss of it, if it may be said to increase the apparent age of a girl under twenty-five, and to lessen it in a woman over that; and the reason is that slenderness is girlish as long as it does not produce wrinkles, while rotundity keeps the wrinkles in the face. As to the eyes, there is nobody so expert to learn the age of a woman with any accuracy near exactitude by physical observation. The uncertainty isn't altogether due to deceptive practices, either, but to the widely varying effect of time in individuals. 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